

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 AF-10 EA-11

RSC-01 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04

INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 CEQ-02

EPA-04 RSR-01 /251 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1126

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJECT: LOS: SEABED COMMITTEE, SUBCMTE II, WG AUG 9, 1973

1. SUMMARY. DELEGATES SUBMITTED ALTERNATIVE TEXTS
PRIMARILY ON LIMITS FOR TERRITORIAL SEA AND EXCLUSIVE
ECONOMIC ZONE. GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WAS EXPRESSED
WITH PROGRESS OF WORK AND SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS TO EXPEDITE
WORK WERE SUGGESTED.

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2. CHAIRMAN REVIEWED PRIOR DAYS DECISION SAYING THAT LIST ITEMS IN CONSOLIDATED TEXT WOULD BE FOLLOWED BEGINNING WITH 2.3.2 AND 6.5. HOWEVER, DELEGATES COULD ALSO DISCUSS 6.1, 7, 8, 9, 10 AND 11. MEMBERS SHOULD SUBMIT ALTERNATIVE TEXTS IN WRITING.

3. BRAZIL CRITICIZED US ALTERNATIVE UNDER ITEM 2.1 WHICH PROVIDED FOR 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA STATING ITEM BELONGED UNDER 2.3.2. IF ALTERNATIVE WAS TO REMAIN, BRAZIL WOULD ALSO SUBMIT ALTERNATIVE.

4. CANADA SUBMITTED ALTERNATIVE ON OUTER LIMIT FOR EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF EITHER 200 MILES OR EDGE OF CONTINENTAL MARGIN (WHERE MARGIN EXTENDED BEYOND 200 MILES).

5. USSR EXPRESSED REGRET THAT STATES WERE MAKING NO EFFORT AT BRINGING POSITIONS CLOSER TOGETHER. SINCE SOVIET VIEWS WERE NOT BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, SOVIETS PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE TO EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH BASICALLY RE-STATED THEIR POSITION ON FISHERIES.

6. GUATEMALA PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE PROVIDING FOR 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND 200 MILE PATRIMONIAL SEA.

7. CHINESE ALTERNATIVE TEXTS PROVIDED THAT COASTAL STATE WOULD HAVE DISCRETION TO DETERMINE BREADTH OF TERRITORIAL SEA BUT THAT OUTER LIMIT OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE WOULD NOT EXCEED 200 MILES.

8. PAKISTAN ALTERNATIVES INCLUDED 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF UNSPECIFIED BREADTH.

9. US QUESTIONED PROCEDURES BEING FOLLOWED IN THAT IT APPEARED THAT PROPOSALS WERE SIMPLY BEING TRANSFERRED FROM COMPARATIVE TABLE TO ALTERNATIVE TEXT FORMS. DOCUMENTS WERE COMPLICATED AND CONFUSING AND US WAS NOT CONVINCED APPROACH WAS LEADING ANYWHERE. REP SUGGESTED AUTHORS GET TOGETHER TO CONSOLIDATE UNCLASSIFIED

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SIMILAR ARTICLES.

10. TURKEY APPROVED PRESENTATION OF ALTERNATIVE DRAFT ARTICLES AS ONLY PRACTICAL METHOD FOR WG TO MAKE PROGRESS. SINCE SOME GAPS WOULD EXIST ON LIST ITEMS, REP SUGGESTED SECRETARIAT PREPARE DRAFT TEXTS.

11. PERU OBJECTED TO TURKISH SUGGESTION RE SECRETARIAT.

REP ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SOME 40 COUNTRIES HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN PREPARATORY WORK AND THEY WOULD WANT THEIR VIEWS REFLECTED. PERU INDICATED THAT CONFERENCE MIGHT HAVE TO BE HELD IN JULY/AUGUST 1974 IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

12. ARGENTINA SUBMITTED ALTERNATIVES PROVIDING FOR 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND 200-MILE OR 200 METERS WATER DEPTH BEYOND 200 MILES FOR EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE. COASTAL STATE WOULD ALSO HAVE CONTINENTAL SHELF RIGHTS OUT TO LOWER EDGE OF CONTINENTAL SHELF.

13. TURKISH REP STATED THAT WG COULD NOT COMPLETE WORK IN TIME AND MEANS HAD TO BE FOUND TO MEET GENERAL ASSEMBLY MANDATE. HE SUGGESTED SANTIAGO MIGHT BE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE. WG COULD DO NO MORE THAN COMPILE MOUND OF ALTERNATIVE TEXTS BECAUSE MEMBERS WERE UNABLE TO RECONCILE DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW.

14. NETHERLANDS SUPPORTED SECRETARIAT PREPARING TENTATIVE DRAFT TEXTS ON ALL ISSUES. REP STATED THEY WOULD SUBMIT ALTERNATIVES UNLESS SECRETARIAT WAS GOING TO UNDERTAKE TASK.

15. ICELAND WAS CONCERNED THAT REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD REFLECT THAT INSUFFICIENT PREPARATION HAD TAKEN PLACE AND SANTIAGO CONFERENCE MIGHT BE POSTPONED. REP SUGGESTED WG CONCENTRATE ON GETTING CONSOLIDATED TEXTS WITH MANY CO-SPONSORS ON KEY ISSUES.

16. COLOMBIA SHARED OTHERS CONCERNS AND WAS WILLING TO HAVE SECRETARIAT ATTEMPT TO PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE TEXTS.

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17. CHILE, SPEAKING AS HOST COUNTRY, STATED TIME HAD NOT COME TO DISCUSS FURTHER PREPARATION OR POSTPONEMENT. THREE METHODS OF WORK MIGHT BE ADOPTED:

(1) CHAIRMAN OF MAIN CMTE COULD HOLD CONSULTATIONS ON NEGOTIATING PACKAGE WHICH COULD PROVIDE FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION; (2) SECRETARIAT COULD PREPARE CONSOLIDATED TEXTS AND SUBMIT THEM TO WG; (3) CHAIRMEN OF WG AND SUBCMTE COULD HOLD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH THOSE DRAFTING PROPOSALS ALONG SIMILAR LINES.

18. PERU STATED THAT SECRETARIAT COULD NOT DO WHAT SUBCMTE WAS SUPPOSED TO DO. WG DID NOT HAVE TIME ENOUGH TO DO ITS WORK. SPAIN AND FRANCE ALSO HAD MISGIVINGS ABOUT ABILITY OF SECRETARIAT TO DRAFT CONSOLIDATED

TEXTS, ALTHOUGH FRANCE WAS WILLING TO PERMIT SECRETARIAT TO ATTEMPT EFFORT. CANADA FAVORED CONTINUATION OF PROCESS UNDERWAY. LEBANON SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE DEADLOCKED AND THAT SECRETARIAT COULD UNDERTAKE INTELLIGENT COMPILATION.

19. UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL STAVROPOULOS STATED THAT WG WAS AT IMPASSE. THERE WERE GREAT NUMBER OF ISSUES, NO PREPARED TEXT AND NO VOTING. MOREOVER, WILL TO NEGOTIATE WAS LACKING. HE SUGGESTED THAT INTERESTED REPS MEET WITH HIM TO DISCUSS WAY OUT OF DEADLOCK.

20. CHAIRMAN OF WG DEFENDED ACTIONS TO DATE BY POINTING OUT THAT PROCEDURAL APPROACH IN WG WAS ONE WG ITSELF HAD ADOPTED. HE EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH LACK OF POLITICAL WILL TO NEGOTIATE. BASSIN

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